THE

Lords PROTESTS

In the Laſt

Seſſion of PARLIAMENT.

VIZ.

I. On the Bill for puniſhing Mutiny and Deſertion.

II. On the Bill for reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.

III. On the Act for reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.

To which is added,

The Speaker's Reprimand to Sir *John Eyles*, *March* 31. 1732. and Sir *John Eyles*'s Reply. Alſo, the State of the National Debt, as it ſtood on *Dec.* 31. 1731.

LONDON:

Printed by T. REYNOLDS, near *Hungerford-Market* in the *Strand*; and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*. MDCCXXXII.

[*Price Six-pence.*]

THE

Lords PROTESTS

In the Last

SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

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II. On the Bill for reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.

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To which is added,

The Speaker's Reprimand to Sir John Eyles, Bart. in 1732, and Sir John Eyles's Reply. Also, the State of the National Debt, as it stood on Dec. 31. 1731.

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Printed by T. REYNOLDS, near Hungerford Market in the Strand; and Sold by the Booksellers of London and Westminster. MDCCXXXII.

[Price Six-pence.]

The Lords Proteſt

On the *BILL* for Puniſhing Mutiny and Deſertion.

Die Martis, 7°. *die Martij*, 1731.

THE Order of the Day being read for the Houſe to be put into a Committee of the whole Houſe, upon the Bill, entitled, *An Act for puniſhing Mutiny and Deſertion, and for the better Payment of the Army and their Quarters*,

Propoſed, That it be an Inſtruction to the ſaid Committee, that the Number of Men ſpecified in the ſaid Bill do not exceed Twelve Thouſand.

After long Debate,

The Queſtion was put, Whether ſuch an Inſtruction ſhould be given to the ſaid Committee?

It was reſolved in the Negative.

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Diſſentient

1. Becauſe ſo great a Number of Troops as is ſpecified in this Bill was never before allow'd by Parliament in time of ſettled Peace, and no Reaſon was given in Oppoſition to the Inſtruction, but what, we conceive, muſt equally hold good in all future Times: For when can we hope to ſee a Seſſion of Parliament opened with more ſatisfactory Declarations, and ſtronger Aſſurances of Happineſs and Security, than thoſe contained in his Majeſty's Moſt Gracious Speech from the Throne, on the firſt Day of this Seſſion. His Majeſty is therein pleaſed to declare, that his Expectations are fully anſwered; that the general Tranquillity of *Europe* is reſtored and eſtabliſhed; that the tedious Work is perfected and finiſhed; that the Wounds, which have been long bleeding, are intirely healed; that the national Expence will be conſiderably leſſen'd, and that the Nation ſhall reap the Fruits of his Endeavours. In ſuch a Situation of Affairs, we conceive, that we could not act conſiſtently with his Majeſty's gracious Diſpoſition to his People, agreeably to the Honour of this Houſe, nor with that Regard we muſt always have for the Liberties of our Fellow-Subjects, without endeavouring to reduce the Number of Troops ſpecified in the Bill.

2. Becauſe the ſettled State of Affairs at home, and the great Duty and Affection his Majeſty's Subjects have ſhewn to him, upon all Occaſions, ſhould, in our Opinion, be a full Anſwer to all Arguments that can be drawn to juſtify the keeping up ſo great a Number of Troops, from any Apprehenſions of a Pretender to the Throne. For, if the preſent Circumſtances of this Nation be compared with the Situation of Affairs after the Treaty of *Ryſwick*, or that of *Utrecht*, theſe Kingdoms will be found infinitely more ſecure in that Particular. In the firſt Period of Time, the late King *James* was living, who had an *Iriſh* Army in his Pay, in *France*; many of his old Servants and Soldiers were then alive, and active in *England* and *Scotland*; a potent Prince and Nation always ſupporting him, and ready, at any time, to arm in his Cauſe. As to the ſecond Period of Time, the Pretender was in the Neighbourhood of *France*, That *French* King who had maintain'd him and his Family, was ſtill living, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion had not then taken Place; yet, in both theſe Points of Time, half the Number of Troops allow'd by the preſent Bill was not only thought, by Parliament, but, by Experience, found ſufficient for our Security: How little Foundation then does there ſeem to be for continuing ſuch a Number of Forces at this Juncture, when the Pretender has been long removed beyond the *Alps*, and a Prince on the Throne of *France*, who ſeems more intent to make his own Dominions flouriſh by Trade, than, out of a reſtleſs Ambition, to diſturb his Neighbours?

Sufficient Reaſons may be drawn, from the preſent Diſpoſition of Affairs, in that Kingdom, as well as thoſe of *Spain*, to increaſe our Naval Force, but none, in our Opinion, for maintaining ſuch an Army at Land. The preſent Royal Family is now (God be praiſed!) firmly ſeated on the Throne, and nothing can ſhake it, but an Adminiſtration which ſhall venture to depart from the Principles on which the Act of Settlement was founded. That Settlement was founded on Liberty, and, by the Nature of Things, muſt be coæval with Liberty.

3. Becauſe it has hitherto been thought the Happineſs of our Situation, as an Iſland, that we have not had the ſame Occaſion for a Number of Troops, to defend us, as thoſe on the Continent. To prevent the Inroads of their Neighbours, they have been obliged to keep up Standing Armies, which have generally been the Cauſe of the Loſs of their Liberties, and always proved the ſure Means of fixing their Chains upon them.

4. Becauſe we are fully convinced, that his Majeſty will reign the more firmly in the Hearts of all his People, the more he places his Confidence in them; and we conceive it to be an Indignity to him, to ſuggeſt, that he cannot now be ſecure on the Throne, without the Aſſiſtance of a greater ſtanding Force, than even his Royal Father was contented with, in the Time of leſs Tranquillity. Altho' it ſem'd to be the Tendency of ſome Arguments uſed againſt the Queſtion, yet we can never be brought to believe, that this Nation is in Danger of being over-run by any foreign Force. Our Apprehenſions are, that it can only be ruined and inſlaved by a Standing Army at home; and we are juſtly jealous, from Experience of former Times, that the Crown itſelf, as well as the Liberties of the People, may be found, at length, to be at their Diſpoſal.

Laſtly, We refer to the Four Firſt Reaſons, enter'd on our Journals *February* 24. 1717. ſigned by many Lords of this Houſe.

Boyle	*Litchfield*	*Carteret*
Shaftsbury	*Exeter*	*Bathurſt*
Foley	*Craven*	*Gower*
Suffolk	*Tadcaſter*	*Tweedale*
Briſtol	*Northampton*	*Strafford*
Maynard	*Bridgwater*	*Winchelſea* and
Aylesford	*Scarſdale*	*Nottingham.*
Thanet	*Coventry*	

The Four Reaſons of the 24th of February, 1717. *above referr'd to.*

1. BEcauſe the Number of Sixteen Thouſand Three Hundred Forty Seven Men is declar'd neceſſary by this Bill. But it is not therein declar'd, nor are we able, any way, to ſatisfy ourſelves, from whence that Neceſſity ſhould ariſe, the Kingdom being now (God be prais'd!) in full Peace, without any juſt Apprehenſion either of Inſurrections at home, or Invaſions from abroad.

2. Becauſe ſo numerous a Force is near double to what hath ever been allow'd within this Kingdom, by Authority of Parliament, in Times of publick Tranquillity; and being as we conceive, no ways neceſſary to ſupport, may (we fear) endanger our Conſtitution, which hath never yet been entirely ſubverted, but by a Standing Army.

3. Becauſe the Charge of keeping up ſo great a Force ought not unneceſſarily to be laid on the Nation, already over-burthened with heavy Debts; and this Charge we conceive to be ſtill more unneceſſarily increas'd by the great Number of Officers now kept on the Eſtabliſhment, in Time of Peace; a Number far greater (in Proportion to that of the Soldiery commanded by them) than hath ever yet been thought requiſite in Times of actual War.

4. Becauſe ſuch a Number of Soldiers, diſpers'd in Quarters throughout the Kingdom, may occaſion great Hardſhips; and become very grievous to the People, and thereby cauſe, or increaſe, their Diſaffection, and will, probably, ruin many of his Majeſty's good Subjects, on whom they ſhall be quartered, and who have been already, by that Means, greatly impoveriſh'd,

W. Ebor.	*Greenwich*	*Litchfield*	*Bathurſt*
Northampton	*Compton*	*Harcourt*	*P. Hereford*
Strafford	*Poulet*	*North* and *Grey*	*Fr. Roſſen*
Scarſdale	*Boyle*	*Foley*	*Weſton*
Fr. Ceſtrienſ.	*Tadcaſter*	*Ilay*	*Trevor*
Briſtol	*Bute*	*Manſel*	*Oxford*
Gower	*Guilford*	*Dartmouth*	*Abingdon.*

On

On the BILL for Reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.

Die Mercurij, 29° die Martij, 1732.

THE Order of the Day being read for the Houſe to be put into a Committee, upon the Bill, entitled, *An Act for reviving the Duties on Salt for the Term therein mentioned,*

Moved, That it be an Inſtruction to the ſaid Committee, that they do receive a Clauſe to exempt all Salt uſed for manuring of Land from the Duties laid by the ſaid Bill.

After Debate,

The Queſtion was put thereupon,

It was reſolved in the Negative.

Diſſentient

Becauſe it has been found, by Experience, during the Time the Duties upon Salt were taken off, that great Improvements have been made, in ſeveral Parts of the Kingdom, by uſing Salt in manuring of Land; but, by the Revival of thoſe Duties, without the Proviſion deſigned by the Inſtruction, there muſt be a total Stop put to all Improvements of that Nature; and we are convinced, that, within a few Years, the Lands of *England* might have been raiſed, by the Uſe of this Manure, more than double what this Tax will produce to the Government; and, we apprehend, this is a very improper Time to check the Induſtry of the People, and prevent their domeſtick Improvements, ſince, we fear, the national Wealth is not likely to be increaſed, at this Time, by a foreign Commerce.

Scarſdale
Strafford
Warrington
Gower
Bathurſt
Boyle
Shaftsbury
Litchfield
Suffolk
Coventry
Maſham
Bridgwater
Northampton
Tweedale
Carteret
Ker
Briſtol
Thanet
Winchelſea and
Nottingham

Moved, That it be an Inſtruction to the ſaid Committee, that they do receive a Clauſe to exempt from the Duties laid by this Bill, all home-made Salt uſed in victualling of Ships.

After Debate,

The Queſtion was put thereupon,

And it was reſolved in the Negative.

Diſſentient

1. Becauſe the Duties to be laid by this Bill on all home-made Salt uſed in victualling of Ships, increaſes the Expence of the Royal Navy, and is a heavy Burthen upon the Trade and Navigation of the Kingdom, and will very ſenſibly affect the Merchants, already under great Difficulties, by reaſon of the Decay of Trade, and the many grievous Loſſes they have ſuſtained, and Hardſhips they have undergone, by Depredations, Seizures and Confiſcations, too ſeverely felt by moſt of the Traders of *Great-Britain*, and too publickly known to be doubted of.

2. Becauſe this Duty upon our home-made Salt muſt occaſion many of our Merchants to victual their Ships abroad, to the Diminution of the national Wealth, and to the great Detriment of the landed Intereſt of this Kingdom.

Abingdon
Scarſdale
Strafford
Warrington
Gower
Bathurſt
Boyle
Shaftsbury
Litchfield
Suffolk
Coventry
Maſham
Bridgwater
Northampton
Tweedale
Carteret
Ker
Briſtol
Thanet
Winchelſea and
Nottingham.

Moved,

Moved, That it be an Inſtruction to the ſame Committee, that they do receive a Clauſe to reſtrain any Perſon, during the Time he ſhall be employed or concerned in the charging, collecting, levying, or managing any of the Duties to be granted by the Bill, from being a returning Officer, or voting, or influencing any Elector to vote in Elections of Members to ſerve in Parliament.

After Debate,

The Queſtion was put thereupon,

It was reſolved in the Negative.

Diſſentient

1. Becauſe the Officers employed in the Cuſtoms, in the Exciſe, in other Branches of the Revenues, and in other Poſts of the publick Service, are already vaſtly numerous; they compoſe, in Effect, a ſecond Standing Army, and are, perhaps, in ſome Reſpects, more dangerous than that Body of Men properly ſo called: The Influence which they have in Elections of Members to ſerve in Parliament has been too often felt to be denied; and we preſume, that Examples are not hard to find, where the Military Forces have been withdrawn to create the Appearance of a free Election, and the ſtanding Civil Forces of this Kind have been ſent to take that Freedom away. Should we ſuffer this Evaſion on the Freedom of Elections to continue, much more to increaſe, it will be eaſy, in our Opinion, to demonſtrate, that one vital Principal of our Preſent Conſtitution, and the Freedom of the *Britiſh* Government, muſt be loſt, ſince the Houſe of Commons might, indeed, afterwards be a Repreſentative of an Adminiſtration, or of one ſingle Miniſter, but could no longer be a true Repreſentative of the People. We think ourſelves therefore obliged to oppoſe the Growth of ſo great an Evil, upon every Occaſion; and we apprehend, that every ſuch Increaſe of Officers of the Revenue as this Bill imports, is, ſtrictly, ſuch an Occaſion, and therefore we think the Inſtruction ſhould have been agreed to, that we might not add to that Evil, which, we conceive, is already too great.

2. Becauſe the very Inſtitution of Parliaments, at leaſt, from the Time when they began to be compoſed and held in the Manner, and for all the Purpoſes, they now are, the principal Aim of the Enemies of publick Liberty has been to enable the Crown to govern without them, or to corrupt their Members, or to deſtroy the Freedom of their Elections. From the ſame Time we may date the conſtant Care which has been taken, by the Friends of publick Liberty, to ward off thoſe ſeveral Dangers: And the Laws which appear in our Statute Books, for regulating Elections for Members to ſerve in Parliament, as well as the Qualifications of the Electors and the Elected, are ſtanding Monuments which ſhew how early thoſe Dangers began; and the Oppoſition to them began as early. The Form of our Government, as it has been ſettled ſince the Revolution, leaves us no longer Room to apprehend the firſt of the Attempts mentioned. The Wiſdom of this Houſe has ſeem'd, by rejecting the Penſion Bill three times ſucceſſively, to think the Laws already in Force ſufficient to prevent the ſecond; but the third muſt, in our Opinion, be looked upon to be a growing Danger, and to require extream Watchfulneſs againſt the Conſequences of it, as long as the many heavy Taxes, and the preſent Management of the publick Revenues, keep up, in all Parts of the Nation, ſuch an exorbitant Number of Receivers, Superviſors, Collectors, and other Tax-Gatherers, who are maintained by the People, but are ſolely directed by the Treaſury. The State of Property, and the Nature of Tenures anciently, the real, as well as the pretended Prerogative, in Times more modern, gave to the Crown, among other Influences, a very great one in Election of Members to ſerve in Parliament. Thanks be to God, and to the Virtue of our Fore-fathers, this State of Property is altered, theſe Tenures are aboliſhed, and theſe Prerogatives are either taken away or limited, defined or fixed, by Law; there will remain, therefore, no Means of deſtroying the Freedom of Elections, except thoſe of Corruption, which, we hope, may be rendered ineffectual by the Law to which this Houſe conſented two Seſſions ago, and to the intire Satisfaction of the whole Nation, unleſs the Dangers we apprehend ſhould ariſe by eſtabliſhing ſuch Augmentations of the Number of Officers employed in the Revenue, without Reſtrictions to prevent them from being returning Officers, or voting, or influencing any Elector to vote in future Elections.

3. Becauſe we apprehend, that if ſuch Augmentations, without the aforeſaid Caution, are ſuffered to be made, greater Danger will ariſe from this new Influence, to the Freedom of Elections, and, by Conſequence, to the Conſtitution of our Government, than

than ever did ariſe when Prerogative was carried to the utmoſt Height; and the Influence of the Crown was the moſt ſeverely felt and complained of. We apprehend, that this exorbitant Number of Officers may, one time or other effect the Deſtruction of thoſe Liberties, for the Preſervation of which the Taxes were given, which theſe Officers are employed to collect. We apprehend, that, by conſenting to the Increaſe of theſe Officers, without Reſtriction, we ſhall contribute to ſuch an Influence as may prove more fatal to Liberty than thoſe which were formerly acquired, becauſe it will be the Effect of a Parliamentary Eſtabliſhment, and will make its Way the more ſurely, by making it indirectly, ſecretly, and ſilently.

Scarſdale
Bathurſt
Suffolk
Northampton
Briſtol
Strafford
Boyle
Coventry
Tweedale
Thanet
Warrington
Shaftsbury
Maſham
Carteret
Gower
Litchfield
Bridgwater
Ker
Winchelſea and
Nottingham.

On the ACT for Reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.

Die Veneris, 31° *Martij* 1732.

HODIE 3tia vice lecta eſt Billa, entitled, *An Act for reviving the Duties on Salt, for the Term therein mentioned.*

After Debate,

The Queſtion was put, Whether this Bill ſhall paſs?

It was reſolved in the Affirmative.

Diſſentient'

1. Becauſe this Tax hath been found, by long Experience, to be moſt grievous to the Subject; for which Reaſon the Parliament, upon the Recommendation of his Majeſty from the Throne, choſe to repeal this, as the moſt oppreſſive Part of the Sinking Fund, for the Eaſe and Relief of the Subject. It may therefore ſeem very extraordinary, that in ſo ſhort a Time, before the People have received much Benefit from it, in a Time of Peace, and without any Neceſſity (that appears to us) and when the Supply might be raiſed with leſs Charge and Inconvenience within the Year, we ſhould have Recourſe to a Tax too odious and oppreſſive to be continued, even for the Payment of the National Debt.

2. Becauſe we have reaſon to believe the Parliament would not have cut off ſuch a Branch of the Sinking Fund (which has been eſteemed ſo ſacred and neceſſary) if it could have been thought, that it could ever have been applied to any other Uſe; and it may give Cauſe to apprehend, that the reſt of the Sinking Fund may, by the ſame Means, and to the ſame Purpoſes, be occaſionally diminiſhed, till it is too low to ſatisfy the publick Creditors, and diſcharge the immenſe Debts of the Nation; which Opinion (if it ſhould once prevail) would effectually deſtroy the Publick Credit, and involve the King and Kingdom in inextricable Difficulties.

3. Becauſe this Tax, inſtead of being applied to the Payment of our Debts, occaſions the Increaſe of them; and, inſtead of raiſing the Supply within the Year, which is always moſt eligible, even in Time of War, if it can be done, and which Method (if it had been taken at firſt and purſued) had left the Nation free and unincumbred to us and our Poſterity: We now mortgage the Revenue, in Time of Peace, for a Term of Years, tho' but a ſhort one; but what the People, notwithſtanding, may apprehend will be continued and made a Precedent in all Supplies for the future; which Method of anticipating the Revenue muſt neceſſarily weaken the Government, by depriving it of the Means neceſſary for its Support, in Caſe of any ſudden Emergency of War, or other publick Calamity; and, in Conſequence, throw all the Weight of the publick Expence upon the landed Intereſt, which will pay dear for the Relief of one Shilling in the Pound only in this Year's Land-Tax.

4. Becauſe

4. Becauſe it is liable to Frauds and great Deductions, which make the real Produce into the Exchequer little, tho' it raiſes much upon the People, and is a great Diſcouragement to the Fiſhery, a Burthen upon the Trade and Navigation of the Kingdom.

5. Becauſe it is not only a great Burthen to the Land Eſtates, particularly to the Grazing Farms, but even a Prohibition to all Improvements of Land in thoſe Parts where it is uſed in Manure.

6. Becauſe as this Exciſe is propoſed without any apparent Neceſſity or Convenience to the Publick, or any real Advantage (as is ſuggeſted) to the landed Intereſt, it muſt neceſſarily create a Jealouſy in the People, that it is a Step and Introduction to a more General one; than which nothing can be more odious and dreaded, but a *Standing Army!* that muſt neceſſarily attend the Execution of it.

7. Becauſe *Scotland* being charged only with one Shilling *per* Buſhel on Salt, which is not a third Part of the Duty, introduceth an Inequality in Trade, contrary to that which ſeems eſtabliſhed by the Articles of the Union, and tends to the keeping up invidious Diſtinctions between the two Parts of the united Kingdom: It may juſtly be doubted if the Exemption from this Duty, at the time of the Union, is a ſufficient Reaſon for the like now, ſince the Duty was appropriated to the Debts of *England* contracted before, and is now revived for the current Service of this Year: Yet, under the Appearance of Favour, the People of *Scotland* will, at leaſt, pay, in three Years, the full Sum of 24672 *l.* for the ſaving of the one Shilling in the Land-Tax in the current Year, amounting to leſs than 12000 *l.* So that *Scotland*, inſtead of being eaſed by this Bill, is doubly loaded and reſtrain'd in their Trade upon Account of this Diſtinction, and all the Bounties upon Exportation payable now there, by Law, are render'd precarious, and, conſequently, this Tax ſhould not, in our Opinions, have been impoſed.

8. Becauſe the Subjects are laid under grievous Penalties by this Bill, the incurring of which cannot, in many Caſes, be prevented, notwithſtanding the ſtricteſt Care; whereby the moſt innocent may be ſubjected to the Diſcretion and Mercy of the Commiſſioners and Officers of the Revenue, wherein the greateſt Partiality may be exerciſed.

9. Becauſe all Taxes which require a Multitude of Officers to be employed in collecting them, and which gives thereby an Occaſion and Pretence to quarter a Number of uſeleſs Subjects on the Labour and Induſtry of others, become ſo chargeable and oppreſſive, that they are hardly borne in the moſt arbitrary Governments, and that they ſeem repugnant to the very Nature of a Government conſtituted like ours. The ſole Expence of levying this Tax added to the Intereſt which muſt be paid for Loans made on the Credit of it, will appear, on a fair Calculation, ſufficient to diſcharge, in a competent Number of Years, the Principal and Intereſt of the whole Sum for which the Supply is given. In point of good Husbandry, therefore, we think, that a Tax of this Nature ſhould be rejected in any Country where *Reaſon* is not ſubdued by *Force*, and where *private Will* has not been yet received for *Law*. But in a limited Monarchy, like this of *Great-Britain*, where the Powers of the Conſtitution are divided and balanced, and yet the whole executive Power is intruſted to the Prince, we apprehend, that theſe frequent and great Augmentations of the Number of Officers appointed, directed and paid by the Authority of the Crown, tho' employ'd in collecting and managing Revenues, which are no Part of the Revenue of the Crown, ought to be eſteemed dangerous to publick Liberty, and, for that ſuperior Reaſon, to be eternally avoided.

Bridgwater	*Tweedale*	*Warrington*
Shaftsbury	*Strafford*	*Litchfield*
Carteret	*Northampton*	*Tadcaſter*
Bathurſt	*Gower*	*Winchelſea* and
Coventry	*Ker*	*Nottingham.*
Briſtol	*Scarſdale*	

The

The Speaker's REPRIMAND to Sir *John Eyles*, *March* 31. 1732.

Sir *John Eyles*,

THE Houſe have come to a Reſolution, that you are guilty of a great Irregularity, as a Commiſſioner and Truſtee for Sale of the Forfeited Eſtates for the Uſe of the Publick, by impowering Mr. *Samuel Allen*, Secretary of the Commiſſioners and Truſtees for the Sale of the ſaid Eſtates, to ſign your Name, when abſent, in order to make up the Number of Commiſſioners and Truſtees required by Act of Parliament, to Matters of Form, in Proceedings under the ſaid Act:

And have impoſed a Command upon me, which is the only one, I can truly ſay, that I ever received with any Uneaſineſs in the Place I now ſit; not from any Doubt of the Juſtice of the Command, nor from any Unwillingneſs in me to obey an Order of the Houſe; but becauſe you, Sir, are unfortunately the Subject of it, for whom I have always had the greateſt Perſonal Regard.

The Offence you are guilty of, having come within the Notice of the Houſe, it was impoſſible it ſhould eſcape their Cenſure, as it had a Reference to a Truſt repoſed in you; repos'd by Parliament! the higheſt and moſt ſacred Authority any Subject of this Kingdom can act under! and with a particular Confidence in you, and the others join'd with you, becauſe of the Relation you bore to the Parliament: A Truſt of great Importance, and which required great Pains and Attention to it, and for that a very conſiderable Recompence was aſſigned to you out of the publick Treaſure. The Recompence, Sir, you enjoy'd; but the Pains and Attention expected from you, you fail'd in, and illegally delegated your Truſt in Inſtances where a falſe and fraudulent Uſe has been made of it.

But, happy for you, Sir, it appears to the Houſe to have been a Matter rather of evil Example, than evil Intention in you; for which Reaſon, the Reſolutions of the Houſe, on this Occaſion, have a Mixture of Juſtice and Mercy; and as your Offence will always juſtify the Cenſure of the Houſe upon you, let it be your Care, Sir, that your future Behaviour always juſtify the Lenity of the Houſe to you. Let the Juſtice of the Houſe make you fear, and the Clemency of the Houſe make it a Matter of Sorrow in you to offend again.

This Senſe, I perſuade my ſelf you have of the Judgment the Houſe has paſs'd upon you, which is, That I reprimand you for your ſaid Offence, and I do reprimand you accordingly.

Sir *John Eyles*'s REPLY, after having been reprimanded by the Speaker, purſuant to the Order of the Houſe of Commons, *March* 31. 1732.

SIR,

I AM very much aſhamed of an Offence that has drawn upon me the Animadverſions and Cenſure of this Houſe; an Offence which at the Time of committing it, I had ſcarce any Idea of being ſubject to Blame for. I am now made truly ſenſible of it, and the ſtrong and lively Colours in which you, Sir, have drawn it, will be to me a laſting Memento of future Caution.

The Judgment the Houſe has paſſed upon me I endure with a dutiful Submiſſion; and you, Sir, having ſhewn that Tenderneſs and Humanity which is agreeable to your Nature, in pronouncing it, and thereby, in ſome Degree, abated its Rigour, I cannot but expreſs my grateful and ſincere Acknowledgment to your ſelf, and alſo to the Houſe, for their Favour in not carrying this Cenſure to any further Conſequence.

FINIS.

The Speaker's REPRIMAND to Sir John Eyles,

March 31. 1732.

Sir John Eyles,

THE House have come to a Resolution, that you are guilty of a great Breach of Trust, as a Commissioner and Trustee for Sale of the Forfeited Estates, for the Use of the Publick, by improving Mr. Knight's Secretary of the Committees and Trustees for the Sale of the said Estates, to keep your Name, when absent, in order to make up the Number of Commissioners and Trustees required by Acts of Parliament, to Matters of Form, in Proceedings under the said Acts.

And here I am imposed a Command upon me, which is the only one, I can truly say, that I ever received with any Uneasiness in the Place I now fill, not from any Dislike of the Justice of the Command, nor from any Unwillingness in me to obey an Order of the House: but because you, Sir, are unfortunately, the Subject, for whom I have always had the greatest Personal Regard.

The Offence you are guilty of, having come within the Notice of the House in such a manner, as it had been impossible it should escape their Censure, as it had been [illegible] you; reposed by Parliament! the highest and most [illegible] Kingdom can act under! and with a particular Confidence in you, and the others joined with you, because of the Relation you bore to the Parliament. A Trust of great Importance, and which required great Pains and Attention to it, and for which a very considerable Recompence was allowed to you out of the publick Treasury. The Recompence, Sir, you enjoy'd; but the Pains and Attention expected from you, you have ill, and illegally derogated your Trust in Instances where a faithful and frequent Use has been made of it.

But, Sir, I pray for your, Sir's, it appears to the House to have been a Matter rather of evil Example, than evil Intention in you; for which Reason, the Resolutions of the House on this Occasion, have a Mixture of Justice and Mercy: and as your Offence will always injure the Confidence of the House upon you, let it be your Care, Sir, that your future Behaviour always justify the Lenity of the House to you. Let the Justice of the House make you fear, and the Clemency of the House make it a Matter of Sorrow in you to offend again.

This Spech I perfectly well have of the Jargument the Speaker has pass'd upon you, which is, That I reprimand you for your said Offence, and I do accordingly.

Sir John Eyles's REPLY, after having been reprimanded by the Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of Commons, March 31. 1732.

I AM ready to be informed of an Offence that I am charged with, or the Aggravations of it. Conscious of this to myself, and of the Time of committing it, I had for me any Ill of being subject to blame for. I am now truly sensible of the Misfortune, and the strong and strictly Colours in which you, Sir, have drawn it, will be to me a lasting Memento of future Caution.

The Judgment the House has passed upon me I endure with a dutiful Submission; and you, Sir, having shewn that Tenderness and Humanity which is agreeable to your Nature, in pronouncing it, and Charity, in some Degree abated its Rigour, cannot but expect my grateful and sincere Acknowledgment to your self and all to the House for this Favour in not carrying this Censure to any further Length or Severity.

FINIS.

A STATE of the NATIONAL DEBT, provided or unprovided for by Parliament, as it ſtood the 31ſt of *December* 1730, and the 31ſt of *December* 1731. Together with an Account of the Produce of the Sinking Fund within that Year, and to the Payment of what Debts contracted before the 25th of *December* 1716. the ſaid Fund has been apply'd.

	Amount of the national Debt upon *Dec.* 31. 1730.			Encreaſed between the 31ſt of *Dec.* 1730, and the 31ſt of *Decemb.* 1731.			Paid off within the ſaid Time.			Amount of the national Debt upon *Dec.* 31. 1731.		
EXCHEQUER.	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*				*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
Annuities for long Terms, being the Remainder of the Original Sum contributed and unſubſcribed to the South Sea Company.	1837533		9				fallen in	500		1837033		
Annuities for Lives, with Benefit of Survivorſhip, being the original Sum contributed.	108100									108100		
Annuities on two or three Lives, being the Sum remaining after deducing what is fallen in by Deaths.	139399	8	¼				fallen in	5116	13 4	134282	14	8¼
Annuities at 9 *l. per Cent.*	161108	6	8							161108	6	8
Annuities on Lottery 1710.	109290									109290		
Annuities on the Plate Act 6 *Georgij primi.*	312000									312000		
Annuities on the *Nevis* and St. *Chriſtopher*'s Debentures, at 3 *l. per Cent.*	37821	5	1¼							37821	5	1¼
Exchequer Bills on the Victuallers Act *Anno* 1726.	481800							400		481400		
Ditto made out for Intereſt on old Bills exchanged.	2200									2200		
Ditto for the Supply of the Year 1730.	510400							510400				
Annuities at 3 *l.* 10 *s. per Cent per Ann.* for the Year 1731.				400000						400000		
EAST-INDIA *Company.*												
By two Acts of Parliament 9 *Will. Regis*, and by two others 6 & 10 *Annæ*,	3200000									3200000		
Bank of ENGLAND.												
On their original Fund, at 6 *l. per Cent.*	1600000									1600000		
For cancelling Exchequer Bills 3 *Georgij primi Regis.*	1500000									1500000		
Purchaſed of the South Sea Company.	4000000									4000000		
Annuities at 4 *l. per Cent.* charged on the Duty on Coals ſince *March* 25. 1719.	1750000									1750000		
Annuities charged on the Surplus of the Funds for Lottery 1714.	1250000									1250000		
Annuities for Lottery 1731.				800000						800000		
SOUTH-SEA *Company.*												
On their Capital Stock and Annuities, *per* Act 9 *Georgij primi Regis.*	32302203	5	6½					1000000		31302203	5	6½
	49301855	6	1½	1200000				1516416	13 4	48985438	12	9½

Note, The Land Tax and the Duties on Malt, being annual Grants, are not included in this Account, nor the 1000000 *l.* charged on the Civil Liſt.

EXCHEQUER. Dr.	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*	*Per Contra* Cr.	*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
TO the Caſh of the Sinking Fund, on *Dec.* 31. 1730, is				362212	08	10½	BY Money iſſued towards diſcharging the National Debt between *Dec.* 31. 1730, and *Dec.* 31. 1731. *viz.*			
To the Produce of the Sinking Fund between *Decem.* 31. 1730, and *Decem.* 31. 1731. *viz.*										
On the Aggregate Fund.	628359	14	6¼							
On the General Fund.	307014	6	¼							
On the South Sea Company Fund.	66685	14	6¼							
A Legacy bequeathed towards paying the Publick Debt.	527	12					By paid the South Sea Company in Diſcharge of ſo much of their Capital Stock in Annuities.	1000000		
				1002587	07	1¾				
				1364799	16	00¼	By Ballance on the 31ſt of *Dec.* 1731.	364799	16	¼
								1364799	16	¼

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